

REMARKS

Claims 1, 20-26, 61, and 68-70 have been amended.

Claims 4-7, 29-31, 34-37, 39-43, 60, and 65-67 have been previously withdrawn.

Claims 1-7, 9, 20-31, 34-37, 39-43, 60-63, and 64-70 are currently pending in this application.

Claims 1, 2, 20, 29, 37, and 60 are in independent format.

1. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The rejection of Claims 1, 3, 20-28, 61-63, and 68-70 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,888,128 to *Mitchell* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,471,754 to *Mieling* is respectfully traversed.

a. Claims 1, 3, 61-63, 68, and 69

As amended, independent Claim 1 sets forth a system for mounting vehicle wheels about a spindle shaft of a vehicle wheel balancer, comprising a single mounting flange assembly configured to provide infinite radial adjusted for guide pin contact tips corresponding to a plurality of symmetric and axially centered wheel lug hole configurations, and which further includes at least one tapered centering cone with identifying indicia for placement on the balancer spindle shaft. The cited combination of the '128 *Mitchell* reference and the '754 *Mieling* reference fails to render Claim 1 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as the cited combination lacks the limitation of a single mounting flange assembly with infinite radial adjustment for guide pin contact tips associated with a plurality of vehicle wheel lug configurations, together with a tapered centering cone having identifying indicia.

Dependent Claims 3, 61-63, 68, and 69 each depend either directly or indirectly from independent Claim 1, and accordingly are seen as allowable over the cited references for the same reasons as amended independent Claim 1.

Claims 20-28 and 70

As amended, independent Claim 20 sets forth a single adjustable mounting flange system for mounting vehicle wheels about a spindle shaft of a vehicle wheel balancer. The system comprises a flange plate and an associated adjusting plate, each having a plurality of slots which cooperatively define a plurality of axially symmetric sets of passages through the adjustable mounting flange. Each passage in the of the sets o has a common radial distance from a central axis, the common radial distance being associated with the rotational position of the adjusting plate relative to the flange plate. The system further includes a tapered centering cone having a tapered surface, and which is configured to placement on the balancing machine spindle shaft to support a vehicle wheel thereon in conjunction with the flange and adjusting plates.

The cited combination of the '128 *Mitchell* reference and the '754 *Mieling* reference fails to render independent Claim 20 as amended obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as the cited combination lacks the limitation of a single adjustable mounting flange assembly with a plurality of adjustable sets of passages there through, together with a tapered centering cone for supporting a vehicle wheel upon the spindle shaft of a balancing machine.

Dependent Claims 21-28 and 70 each depend either directly or indirectly from independent Claim 20, and accordingly are seen as allowable over the cited references for the same reasons as amended independent Claim 20.

2. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner's previous allowance of Claims 2 and 9 is acknowledged.

3. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, the allowance of all pending claims is requested.

If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the next Office Action and feels that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark E. Books, Reg. No. 40,918
Polster, Lieder, Woodruff & Lucchesi, L.C.
12412 Powerscourt Drive, Suite 200
St. Louis, Missouri 63131
Tel: (314) 238-2400
Fax: (314) 238-2401